

which is characteristic of that class of fictions, it imputes, in substance, a great excess of imagination in proportion to judgment; and it imputes, in particulars, such errors as naturally result from that excess. It may be worth while to look for some of the practical exemplifications of this unfortunate disproportion between these two powers of the mind.

It should first be noted that a defective judgment is not necessarily accompanied by anything in the least romantic in disposition, since the imagination may be as inert as the judgment is weak; and this double and equal deficiency produces mere dulness. But it is obvious that a weak judgment may be associated with an active strength of that faculty which is of such lively power even in childhood, in dreams, and in the state of insanity.

Again, there may be an intellect not *positively* feeble (supposing it estimated separately from the other power) yet practically reduced to debility by a disproportionate imagination, which continually invades its sphere, and takes everything out of its hands. And then the case is made worse by the unfortunate circumstance, that the exercise of the faculty which should be repressed, is incomparably more easy and delightful, than of that which should be promoted. Indeed the term *exercise* is hardly applicable to the activity of a faculty which can be active without effort, which is so far from needing to be stimulated to its works of magic, that it often scorns the most serious injunctions to forbear. It is not exercise, but indulgence ; and even minds possessing much of the power of understanding, may be little disposed to undergo the labour of it, when amidst the ease of the deepest indolence they can revel in the activity of a more animating employment. Imagination may be indulged till it usurp an entire ascendancy over the mind, and then every subject presented to that mind will be taken under the action of imagination, instead of understanding ; imagination will throw its colours where the intellectual faculty ought to draw its lines ; will accumulate metaphors where reason ought to deduce arguments ; images will take the place of thoughts, and scenes of disquisitions. The whole mind may become at length something like a hemisphere of cloud-scenery, filled with an ever-moving train of changing melting forms, of every colour) mingled with rainbows, meteors, and ail